



FORMER FORT LAFAYETTE – NEW YORK, NY

FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

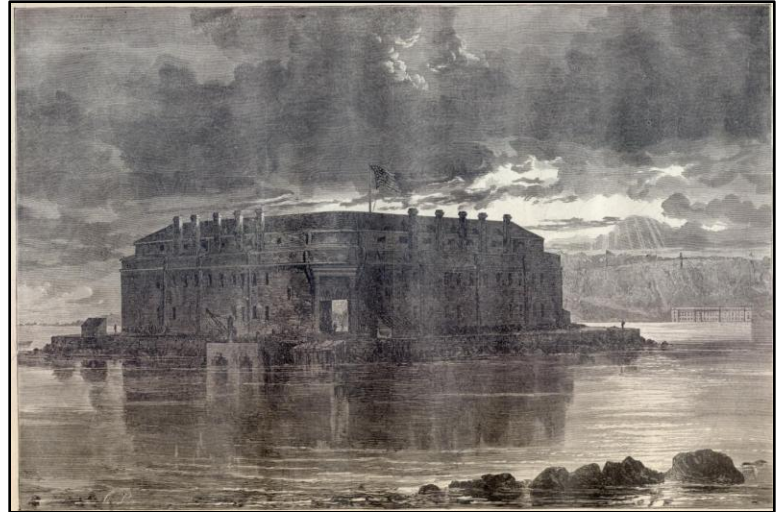
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Description

Construction on the former Fort Lafayette in the New York Harbor began during the War of 1812 and was completed in 1818 just off of what is now known as Bay Ridge in Brooklyn. The fort was demolished in 1960 to make way for the Brooklyn side pillar of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, which is on the site of the old fort.

The fort, at the entrance of the New York Harbor, was originally constructed as part of the series of defensive structures protecting the New York Harbor built in the 1800s.

During the Civil War the fort, nicknamed “the American Bastille,” was used to house captured Confederate Soldiers as well as alleged Confederate sympathizers. Later on through World War II it was used as an ammunition supply and transfer point.



Sketch of Fort Lafayette from a September 1861 issue of “Harper’s Weekly.” The original caption reads “Fort Lafayette, in New York Harbor, where political prisoners are confined. - view taken from Fort Hamilton.”

Authorizations

The site of the former Fort Lafayette is being investigated under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 authorized that program. The Department of Defense Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) addresses the potential explosives safety, health and environmental issues caused by past munitions-related activities at current and former military installations. MMRP funding for former military installations is provided under the FUDS program.

Status (As of January 2012)

The former Fort Lafayette was deemed eligible for inclusion in the Formerly Used Defense Sites program in 2011. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will prepare a preliminary assessment, which will be completed in March 2012. This early stage assessment will be the Corps’ first official look at the site to determine what hazards to the public, if any, may be present and to determine whether further more in depth investigation is needed.

Project Cost

Estimated Federal Cost [Preliminary Assessment]:

\$160,000

Contact

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